

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00865 060829Z

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ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /004 W

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R 060520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3599

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

UNCLAS JIDDA 0865

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW, JANUARY 29- FEBRUARY 4, 1976

SUMMARY: THE TOP STORY OF THE WEEK IN ALL PAPERS WAS THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH WAS CALLED A "SWEEPING ARAB VICTORY." OTHER ARTICLES FOCUSED ON THE SPANISH SAHARA DISPUTE, ANGOLA, SOVIET ARMAMENT, SAUDI ALIGNMENT POLICIES AND SEC. STATE KISSINGER.

1. US VETO: THE ARAB NEWS, ONE OF TWO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSHEETS IN THE KINGDOM, SAID ON JAN. 29 THAT "NOBODY HAVE THE U.S. COMPANY DURING THAT DREARY MONDAY NIGHT AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND MR. MONIYHAN MUST HAVE WONDERED HOW MUCH LONGER HIS COUNTRY'S CREDIBILITY AS A LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD COULD SURVIVE AFTER SO DISASTROUS MISUSE OF ITS VETO POWER."

MUHAMMAD H. ZAYDAN, WRITING IN THE JAN. 30 ISSUE OF AL-BILAD, ARGUED THAT SINCE THE U.S. HAS EXTENSIVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JIDDA 00865 060829Z

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THESE RELATIONSHIPS

MUST NECESSARILY BE CONTRADICTORY. CITING EXAMPLES OF CONTRADICTING U.S. POSITIONS SUCH AS HERE DETENTE WITH CHINA VERSUS RUSSIA AND HER RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AS OPPOSED TO GREECE, MR. ZAYDAN SUGGESTED THAT AMERICA'S VETO WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE CONTRADICTION IN HER POLICIES. "THOUGH THE ARABS ARE ENTITLED TO GET ANGRY OVER AMERICA'S VETO, THEY TREAT IT WITH PATIENCE, HOPING THAT AMERICA MIGHT ONE DAY BE ABLE TO RID HERSELF OF THIS DUPLICITY."

THE EDITOR OF AL YAMAMA WEEKLY (JAN. 30) PROPHESED THAT PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION WAS NOT GOING TO BE PUT ON THE SHELF AS A RESULT OF AMERICA'S VETO. "THE END OF THE UNEF MANDATE ON THE GOLAN IS NOT VERY FAR AWAY, AND THE INTERNATIONAL PARAMETERS THAT CARRIED THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE ALL THIS WAY TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ARE STILL IN MOTION, REGARDLESS OF AMERICA'S VETO, WHICH EXEMPLIFIES A FOSSILIZED AND CONVULSING POLITICAL THOUGHT AND ATTITUDE."

COMMENTING FURTHER ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE, AZIZ DIA (FEB. 2 AL-BILAD) STATED THAT AMERICA REALIZES THE ARAB STATES ARE NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO BE UNRESPONSIVE TO THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE WHICH IS AIMED AT HARMING THEIR CAUSE AND SATISFYING ZIONISM. "THE POLITICAL PRESTIGE THAT THE U.S. HAS GAINED THROUGH HER STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY IS NOW UNDER REVIEW AND REASSESSMENT BY THE ARABS".

2. SPANISH SAHARA

AHMAD M. MAHMOUD SAID IN THE JAN. 29 EDITION OF AL MADINA, THAT THERE ARE TWO FACTORS WHICH DOOM THE ATTEMPTS OF THE POLISARIO MOVEMENT TO LIBERATE THE SPANISH SAHARA: FIRST, THE COURSE PURSUED BY THE POLISARIO IS MARXIST; AND SECOND, THE IMPOSITION OF MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SAHARA HAS GAINED WIDE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

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PAGE 03 JIDDA 00865 060829Z

A MORE SOPHISTICATED THOUGHT WAS OFFERED BY AN UKAZ EDITORIAL ON JANUARY 28. REFERRING TO THE DISPUTE, THE WRITER STATED THAT ALL ARAB EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES HAVE FAILED, BECAUSE THE SAHARA CONFLICT SHOWS THAT THE BIG POWERS TEND TO BREAK UP NATIONS INTO SMALLER UNITS. SUCH A POLICY AIMS AT CREATING SEVERAL SMALLER ENTITIES WHICH HAVE CONTRADICTORY AND OPPOSING INTERESTS THAT CAN HARDLY BE HARMONIZED. AS A RESULT,

THEY ARE APT TO LOSE THEIR ABILITY TO VOICE THEIR VITAL INTERESTS DUE TO THEIR INDULGENCE IN LATERAL DISPUTES WHICH TAKE THEM GRADUALLY AWAY FROM THEIR ACTUAL VITAL INTERESTS. THE WRITER WENT ON TO STATE THAT THIS POLICY CAME ABOUT FROM A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS TO CONTROL THE WORLD THROUGH THE VEHICLE OF DETENTE. BRINGING THIS THEORY CLOSER TO HOME, THE WRITER SEES THIS POLICY EVIDENCED IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS AND CONCLUDED HIS ANALYSIS WITH THE FOLLOWING: "IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS PLAN AIMS AT BREAKING UP THE ARAB NATION BY CREATING A POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH WOULD TAKE THE ARABS TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE QUITE AFFECTED BY THEIR WOUNDS, INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND DISPUTES, AND IN THIS WAY THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ANY RESULTS OR EXPRESS THEIR STANDS ROWARDS THE PALESTINIAN QUESTIONS."

3. ANGOLA:

THE JAN. 30 AL-YAMAMA WEEKLY CARRIED AN ARTICLE IN WHICH THE WRITER SAID THAT WHILE U.S. EFFORTS ARE AIMED TOWARD CONDEMNING ALL SORTS OF INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THE RUSSIANS INSIST ON INTERVENING. IN CONCLUSION THE ARTICLE SAID THAT "AMERICAN IS TRYING TO EXERT RELATIVE PRESSURE AGAINST RUSSIA IN ORDER TO PERSUADE HER TO DESIST FROM HER AGGRESSIVE POLICY. SHOULD THEY NOT RESPOND, MR. FORD OR HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD PROBABLY BE IMPELLED TO SHIFT FROM DETENT INTO A NEW COLD WAR".

4. SOVIET ARMAMENT:

ABU USAMA SAID IN THE JAN. 28 AL-MADINA THAT THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 JIDDA 00865 060829Z

WORLD HAS THE RIGHT TO ASK THE SOVIET UNION WHY IT CONTINUES PRODUCING ATMOIC WEAPONS WHEN IT ALREADY HAS SEVERAL TIMES THE WEAPONS NEEDED TO DESTROY THE WHOLE WORLD. HE DARKLY CONCLUDED: "DETENTE HAS CAUSED AN STMOSPHERE OF PESSIMISM AND FEAR OF THE FUTURE".

5. SAUDI ALIGNMENT:

ONE OF THE MORE INTERESTING EDITORIALS THIS PAST WEEK APPEARED IN THE JAN. 29 UKAZ AND DEALT WITH THE ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN THE U.S. AND THE RELATIVE POWERLESSNESS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IN INCLUDED A SUGGESTION FOR A MORE LIBERAL SAUDI POLICY WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE NON-ALIGNMENT WITH EITHER OF THE TWO BLOCS IN ORDER

TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR SAUDI INTERESTS.

6. KISSINGER:

RIDA LARY, WRITING IN THE JAN. 31 UKAZ, STATED THAT KISSINGER RECOGNIZES THE "REAL" DIMENSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND USES IT TO FURTHER WASHINGTON'S POLICIES. HE ACCUSED AMERICA OF ATTEMPTING TO ABSTRACT THE RECENT CONFERENCE ON ENERGY IN PARIS AND WHEN THAT EFFORT PARTLY FAILED, SHE RETORTED TO HELPING THE TERRORIST/ASSAULT ON OPEC. LARY WROTE: "...CARLOS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT THAT MISSION WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM AND THE CIA, WHICH IS UNDER THE INDIRECT CONTROL OF DR. KISSINGER."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA00865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-1078
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760275/aaaacnvt.tel
Line Count: 184
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW, JANUARY 29- FEBRUARY 4, 1976 SUMMARY: THE TOP STORY OF THE WEEK IN ALL PAPERS
WAS THE
TAGS: PFOR, US, MO, AG
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006